

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 7326

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROG, MY
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: JULY 25-29 NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN
MINISTERS' MEETING AT BELGRADE

REF: (A) STATE 178240 (B) STATE 178242

1. DCM MET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS JULY 18 TO DISCUSS
SUBJECTS RAISED IN REFGELS. ALL TALKING POINTS THEREIN WERE
MADE TO MFA OFFICIAL, WHO IS DEPARTING FOR BELGRADE HIMSELF
JULY 19.

2. ON CUBA, MFA OFFICIAL INDICATED THERE WAS INDEED
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG MODERATES SUCH AS MALAYSIA
ABOUT CUBA'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND, MORE GENERALLY, ABOUT
THE EFFORTS OF CUBA AND OTHER RADICALS TO TAKE OVER THE NAM
AND UNDERMINE ITS CREDIBILITY. THERE WAS EVEN TALK OF
SOME COUNTRIES WITHDRAWING FROM THE HAVANA SUMMIT NEXT
YEAR. HE SAID MALAYSIA'S STATEMENT AT THE BELGRADE MEETING
WILL CONTAIN REMARKS CRITICAL OF CUBA. THOUGH CUBA MAY NOT
BE DIRECTLY MENTIONED BY NAME. HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION
TO THIS, MALAYSIA, ALONG WITH SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA
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(AND PERHAPS OTHERS), WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO SEEK
PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE ABILITY OF THE
RADICALS TO CONTROL THE MEETINGS AND TO STEAMROLLER
THE MODERATES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE INITIATIVE
WILL SEEK MEANS OF DEFINING A CONSENSUS, SO THAT THE
PRESIDING OFFICERS CANNOT SIMPLY DECLARE A CONSENSUS
AT WHIM, AS APPARENTLY HAS HAPPENED AT PREVIOUS

MEETINGS. HE STATED THAT MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AND INDONESIA HAD ALREADY COORDINATED THEIR EFFORTS ON THIS, AND UNDERSTOOD YUGOSLAVIA, AMONG OTHERS, WOULD ALSO BE MAKING GREAT EFFORTS "TO PRESERVE THE UNITY (AND THE CREDIBILITY) OF THE NAM."

3. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, MFA OFFICIAL AGREED THAT WHATEVER HOPES REMAIN FOR THE SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE RADICAL ARABS, PARTICULARLY SYRIA, WOULD ATTEMPT TO ASSERT THE HARD LINE POSITION AT BELGRADE. HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD TAKE NOTE OF OUR CONCERN THAT U.S. EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT NOT GO UNRECOGNIZED. HE ALSO NOTED OUR POSITION ON ZIONISM/RACISM AND AGREED GENERALLY WITH THE NECESSITY FOR AS CONSTRUCTIVE AN NAM APPROACH AS POSSIBLE TO THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION.

4. MFA OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT MALAYSIA WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE ON THE KOREA ISSUE, ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN MORE BALANCED TREATMENT OF IT THAN WAS ACCORDED IT AT HAVANA RECENTLY. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE INDICATED THAT MALAYSIA WOULD TAKE NOTE OF OUR CONCERN THAT SOME RECOGNITION BE GIVEN TO U.S. EFFORTS ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA.

5. ON PUERTO RICO, MFA OFFICIAL SAID THE PRESENT
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LANGUAGE IN THE YUGOSLAV DRAFT COMMUNIQUE APPEARED QUITE MILD BUT THAT IT MIGHT NOT SURVIVE IN ITS PRESENT FORM. DCM REITERATED OUR POSITION THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR OUTSIDE BODIES TO CALL FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE DESPITE THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY WHO HAD REPEATEDLY OPTED IN FREE ELECTIONS FOR CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S.

6. REGARDING THE MASS MEDIA ISSUE, MFA OFFICIAL TOOK NOTE OF OUR POSITION AS EXPRESSED IN REF B AND SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN A MORE PRACTICAL AND SPECIFIC WAYS BY THE G-77 COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT: MALAYSIA IS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIRECTION THE NAM SEEMS TO BE HEADING AND WILL TAKE A MODERATE POSITION AT THE BELGRADE MEETING. HOW ACTIVELY IT WILL PURSUE MODERATE OBJECTIVES THERE WILL, HOWEVER, DEPEND ON HOW MUCH OTHER SUPPORT THERE IS FOR SUCH A STAND. THE MALAYSIANS ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET OUT IN FRONT ON MANY ISSUES, EXCEPT POSSIBLY ON KOREA AND THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE NOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, ON WHICH THEY FEEL PARTICULAR CONCERN. EVEN ON THE LATTER, THEY

WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW AND SUPPORT A YUGOSLAV/INDIAN LEAD.
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